

NEWS RELEASE

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Libertarian Party demands: Declare War on Teenage Tanning!

Regulate no-SPF tanning products as "sunshine-delivery systems"

WASHINGTON, DC — Thousands of American teenagers are tanning themselves into an early grave — while the government stands idly by, the Libertarian Party charged today.

"It's time to declare war on the Coppertone Girl!" demanded party spokesman Bill Winter. "Instead of teenage smoking, politicians should focus on a *real* crisis — teenage tanning."

Recent news reports revealed that sales of low-SPF suntan products — with little or no protection against the ultraviolet light that triggers tanning — are soaring among young people. For example, sales of low-SPF Panama Jack products surged by 40% in 1996, and no-SPF Banana Boat brand sales grew by 24%. Because of the link between sun exposure and skin cancer, dark tans today will result in an explosion of melanoma in 20 or 30 years.

"Why hasn't Congress held hearings about how the \$400-million tanning products industry exploits young people?" asked Winter. "And why hasn't the FDA regulated these low-SPF suntan products as dangerous *sunshine-delivery systems*? We must stop these death merchants before they hook another generation on dark, sexy tans!"

But tanning isn't the only teenage health epidemic ignored by politicians, complained Winter. For example, the number of overweight teenagers (12-17) has doubled since 1980, from 6% to 12%. This trend puts millions of young people at future risk from strokes, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart attacks.

These two troubling trends — too much teenage tanning and too much teenage eating — are clear opportunities for new government programs, said Winter.

"If something isn't done soon, we'll end up with a nation of well-tanned, fat teenagers!" he ranted apocalyptically. "Can't politicians do *anything* to save our kids?"

Wait a second — has the Libertarian Party *really* abandoned its longtime opposition to government intervention? Do Libertarians want a government War On Tanning & Eating?

"Of course not," said Winter. "But April Fools Day seemed like a good time to point out how easy it is to cobble together a few statistics and some wild rhetoric, and manufacture a phony crisis that 'requires' a new government War on Something, especially when it involves kids.

"But we, the American public, are the *real* April Fools if we don't declare a War on Government Wars — and demand an end to the crisis-of-the-week that politicians manufacture to rob us of our liberty," he said.

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